

## ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

*file Copy*

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- London Bureau

FROM:

EXTENSION

NO.

Chief, Operations Group

DATE

September 1988

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

1.

C/MOD

2.

3.

C/ESG

4.

5.

6.

C/ADD

7.

8.

C/HED

9.

10.

C/Computer Operations

11.

12.

C/FED

13.

14.

15.

Admin/Destroy

3 October 1988

FBIS-4428-88

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

FROM : Chief, London Bureau, FBIS

SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- London Bureau -- September 1988

I. GENERAL

1. Barry Whitehall was officially designated General Manager, BBC Monitoring on 8 September. The vacancy for the Deputy General Manager post was announced in the 28 September BBC staff newspaper and interviews for the post will begin after 11 October. In the interim, Geraldine Carvalho will continue to shoulder many of the traditional DGM duties.
2. London Bureau also underwent a management change on 25 September with the arrival of Bureau Chief [redacted]. In addition, [redacted] assumed the chief editor duties on 12 September with the departure of [redacted].
3. On the BBC modernization front, BBC reached agreement with its contractor on 22 September on a "way forward" to complete the installation of its computer system in the originally designated space. The computer equipment is expected to be delivered in February 1989 with training beginning in the spring. In another positive development, BBC has accepted the computer-driven control system for the 11-meter C-Band satellite dishes at Crowsley Park and has begun training its operators on the system.
4. London Bureau hosted the 26-27 September BBC-FBIS African Coordination Meeting attended by the chiefs of Abidjan and Mbabane Bureaus and BBC East African Unit Head Peter Deakin. Minutes of the meeting have been completed and will be pouched to the conference participants and FBIS Headquarters.

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II. OPERATIONS

A. Editorial/Monitorial

1. For the seventh month in a row, PMU and editorial wordage was at an all-time daily average high for the month in question. A major contributor to the high wordage was Soviet leader Gorbachev's return from his annual vacation in mid-month and highly publicized Siberian tour, which presented both PMU and the BBC Russian team with a highly complex coverage mission owing to the numerous versions of his various walkabouts. A hastily summoned CPSU Central Committee Plenum and Supreme Soviet session at the end of

the month also produced a number of high-precedence items on Soviet leadership changes.

2. Senior editor [ ] completed a month-long survey of bureau West Europe selection. Conclusion of the study, a copy of which was passed to BBC management, is that no significant time-sensitive material responsive to FBIS consumer requirements is being discarded from the BBC-supplied file and that approximately 30 percent of the BBC file is responsive to FBIS consumer needs.
3. PMU received a message from Chief, Operations Group praising the unit for handling with "the speed of the proverbial yesterday" a 1 September PRAVDA interview with KGB chief Chebrikov. BBC Newsroom expressed appreciation to PMU for processing upon receipt from Pressfax a 5 September PRAVDA article by Marshal Akhromeyev on reduction of naval forces and a 24 September PRAVDA version of Gorbachev's address to the media on restructuring.

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B. Coverage

1. The UK postal strike seriously disrupted PMU receipt of West European and Soviet subscription papers for most of the month. By 26 September deliveries of all but the Soviet papers were back to normal and the unit was able to resume most of the coverage taken on by Production Group. Strike action in France affected coverage of French radio from 27 to 30 September. Earlier strike action by the French TV stations Antenne-2 and FR-3 did not affect Internet feeds of the nightly French newscast from the TV5 satellite service.
2. With the flareup of the troubles in Armenia and Azerbaijan, BBC began taking feeds of Yerevan Russian and Baku Azeri newscasts toward the end of the month. The Russian feeds were terminated on 27 September when it was determined that reception was too poor for meaningful processing.
3. The TASS English and Russian landline services were temporarily disrupted during the week of 19 September while TASS and British Telecom carried out the long-awaited upgrade of these two services from 50 to 300 baud. The English service upgrade was successfully completed, but the Russian service is still being fed at 50 baud until BBC can upgrade its cyrillic printer to accommodate the higher baud rate.
4. Bureau was able to resume use of the 1.8M dish to monitor the Pressfax signal from 14W Gorizont by mid-month when BBC engineers discovered that a faulty demodulator was responsible for much of the noise on the signal. BBC was able to use the 10M dish to cover the Tripoli 1230 domestic service newscast, usually monitored with an 11M Crowsley dish, as well as Omdurman radio and TV. On the weekend of 1

October it used the dish to monitor Kinshasa Domestic Service satellite transmissions for reportage on the visit to Zaire by South African President Pieter Botha after Abidjan advised is reception of Kinshasa sources was worthless.

C. Lateral Services

At the urgent request of the U.S. Ambassador in Brussels, the Brussels Embassy was added as a consumer for all filed reportage on the 30 September CPSU Central Committee plenum and the 1 October Supreme Soviet Session.

D. Communications

1. Bureau communications personnel closely monitored the patch with [ ] after 15 September to ensure that only bureau and Vienna traffic was being passed. Reminders were sent to a few bureaus which had not deleted [ ] from all their LSL packages. It was noted that up to 15 September an average of 323 items daily were passing through the line, while from the 15th to the end of the month the average dropped to 69 items daily. The Communications Unit will continue to keep statistics on the [ ] traffic as part of the planning for the conversion to [ ]
2. Internet: Effective 22 September bureau began overnight Internet feeds of Moscow Television's First Program to free the Headquarters TVRO to cover Santiago TV in the lead-up to the Chilean plebiscite. This arrangement will remain in effect through 5 October. In another Internet development, the operators had their own Internet scoop on the 30th when they were able to provide Headquarters with the first Soviet TV announcement of the CPSU leadership changes approved at the Central Committee plenum.

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E. Technical

1. BTI completed installation of the 64KB stream in preparation for the conversion of the Pressfax Internet transmission to digital mode.
2. The bureau conducted several tests of IDD with Abidjan during the month. Results of the tests were mixed, mainly as a result of Abidjan difficulty in getting a telephone connection with Caversham. An additional phone line has been ordered for installation in the Communications Unit in preparation for establishment of a proper IDD station at the bureau.
3. Bureau engineer [ ] produced a document outlining the problems to be resolved in planning for the upcoming communications upgrade. A copy of the document was passed to visiting Deputy Chief/ESG [ ] for distribution at Headquarters.

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## III. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

1. September was a busy month in the area of personnel arrivals and departures beginning with the PCS arrival of editor [ ] on 2 September. Senior editors [ ] arrived two weeks later on 14 September and Bureau Chief [ ] arrived on the 25th. Chief Editor [ ] and Senior Editor [ ] departed on 12 September. STAT  
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2. Tape Relay Operator [ ] entered on duty 11 September. STAT
3. Associate Editor [ ] returned from LWOP to part-time editorial work on 13 September. STAT
4. The bureau administrative staff continued work on processing four TCN monitorial candidates for Vienna Bureau. In addition, the bureau placed an ad in the London TIMES for a Hungarian monitorial vacancy in Vienna.

## IV. VISITS

To the bureau: Chief/FED [ ] on 1 September for discussions in London with BTI; Regional Medical Officer on 14 September for discussions with bureau management and individual consultations; Headquarters Inspector on 8 September for discussions with bureau management and tandem couples; Deputy Chief/ESG [ ] on 16 September for discussions with bureau management and BBC; Vienna Regional Engineer [ ] on 15-18 September and 24-27 September for consultations with bureau and BBC engineers on the Islamabad Line; Headquarters visitors [ ] on 22 September for bureau tour; and Chief, Abidjan Bureau [ ] and Chief, Mbabane Bureau [ ] 25-28 September for the FBIS-BBC African Coordination Meeting. STAT  
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From the bureau: Associate Editor [ ] to Abidjan 8 September through 7 October for editorial assistance. STAT

To Islamabad: Vienna Engineer [ ] 19-23 September for familiarization, routine maintenance visit. STAT  
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## Attachments

cc: Chief, Austria Bureau  
Chief, Islamabad Unit  
Chief, Okinawa Bureau

## **General**

### **Deputy General Manager**

#### **BBC Monitoring World Service**

**Caversham**

**Salary according to qualifications and  
experience AMP**

**Ref: 2267**

**DUTIES:** Monitoring is part of World Service but financed by a separate Grant in Aid. It provides BBC departments, Government offices and a wide range of other subscribers with news and information Services, in tele-printer, hard copy and data-flow forms. Monitoring is presently engaged on a modernisation scheme covering almost all aspects of its activities. Deputy General Manager will exercise senior management functions in respect of the two main Monitoring Operational departments (Reception Department and News & Publications) and Service-wide matters relating to the Caversham Modernisation Project.

**DUTIES:** To assist and deputise on a day-to-day basis for GMM over the whole range of Monitoring activities and its contacts with outside bodies. Specifically DGM will have overall responsibility for financial control, direction of personnel policies and their implementation, Industrial Relations, Marketing, Administrative Services, the East African Unit and the Library. The Caversham Modernisation Project, a major five year capital investment programme, will be co-ordinated by DGM.

**ESSENTIAL:** All round managerial skills of a high order demonstrated by successful achievements at a senior level in staff management, financial and resource control. Knowledge of, and interest in, news and international affairs and experience of other countries. Diplomatic skills and ability to deal with Government and commercial organisations. Some knowledge of modern information technology and technical facilities. Proven ability in successfully managing change.

**DESIRABLE:** Knowledge of one or more foreign languages and editorial experience.

Final address for application forms: John Davis, Ch.Pers.O. WS., Rm 902 NE, Bush House. JD

VACANCY NOTICE' APPEARING IN THE 28 SEPTEMBER  
VERSION OF ARIEL, THE BBC STAFF NEWSPAPER